

## **Next Generation “Strengthening Our Niche” Work-Group Meeting Notes of February 1, 2010**

### **Present**

Will Andresen, Annette Burchell, Melanie Fulman, Kelly Klein, Brad Kusz, Gemma Lamb, Jim Rouse, Sue Rouse, Steve Schurtter, Charlie Supercynski, Marion True,

### **Background and Purpose**

Will Andresen gave a short background on the Next Generation Initiative and the purpose and goals of the Strengthening Our Niche work-group to the new members in attendance.

### **Trail Mapping Sub-Committee Report**

Melanie Fullman explained that she, along with John Garske, Annette Burchell and Jim Maki, will be meeting with Gordon Koski from the Gogebic Range Trail Authority to discuss the proposed regional trail system and how the motorized and non-motorized groups can work together.

After this meeting, we will then proceed with sending a letter to the Gogebic County Board, along with a sample resolution, seeking support for the regional trail system.

This will be a three-step process with the local units of government, seeking their support through adoption of the resolution, including the regional trail plan in their respective planning documents (land use, recreation and economic development), and grant-writing.

Will Andresen gave an update on related efforts in Iron County, including both the City of Hurley (in conjunction with the schools and the county) and the Town of Mercer (as part of a regional trail system connecting to Boulder Junction).

### **Heritage Trail**

Charlie Supercynski encouraged the group to include a heritage trail “auto tour” in its efforts. It was noted that Northern Initiatives has recently obtained a grant to create a two-county auto tour through Gogebic and Ontonagon counties. It was suggested that we invite this group to our next meeting so we don’t duplicate efforts and we can work together.

### **Course of Action**

The following items are to be completed before our next meeting:

- 1) Meet with the Gogebic Range Trail Authority

- 2) Send letter and draft resolution to Gogebic County Board
- 3) Develop sample script for review at next meeting
- 4) Invite Northern Initiatives to next meeting to present their regional heritage trail project

### **Next Meeting Date**

Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 12:00 Noon, Board Room of the Iron County Courthouse